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| CLASSIFICATION                                       | SECRET   | 25X1                         |
| COUNTRY  | Approved For Release 2003/08/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013800250006-0 | 25X1                         |
| TOPIC 1. Occupation of the Stendal-Borstel Airfield. |  |                              |
| 2. Engineer Practice near Storkow.                   |  |                              |
| EVALUATION   | 25X1   | PLACE OBTAINED 25X1          |
| DATE OF CONTENT prior to 11 July 1952                |  |                              |
| DATE OBTAINED  | 25X1   | DATE PREPARED 20 August 1952 |
| REFERENCES   |  |                              |
| PAGES  | 2  | ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1 |
| REMARKS  |  |                              |

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1. Prior to 11 July 1952, a unit of about 350 officers and enlisted men equipped with 28 x 100 mm AT guns, 40 prime movers and 40 trucks and an undetermined number of units equipped with 30 x 133-mm rocket launchers and 80 trucks were stationed at the Stendal-Borstel (M 53/Y 85) airfield.

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2. On 11 July, an engineer unit arrived for a practice at the east bank of the Elbe River near Storkow, east of Stendal. Truck and trailer occupied by personnel wearing artillery insignia and mounting a motorboat approached the bank of the Elbe River in the afternoon. Engineers provided covering rifle fire with blank cartridges. The motorboat was launched to take six soldiers to the opposite bank of the river where they took up position and opened fire. After maintaining the bridgehead during the night, the engineers constructed ferries of 4 and 6 steel pontoons, about 2.20 by 4.50 meters, on either side of the Elbe River pier during the early hours of 19 July. They also built a ferry of four light wooden pontoons. Four tanks arrived at noon and crossed the river under covering fire by the engineers. They were reshipped to the east bank of the river at night when the practice was discontinued. All material was removed, loaded on trucks and shipped off on 13 July.

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\* [ ] Comment. This information confirms that the Borstel airfield is occupied by the unidentified RL Regt of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and the unidentified AT Arty unit which, [ ] has regimental strength, and other units. [ ] The assignment of the AT gun regiment is undetermined.

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\*\* [ ] Comment. [ ] engineers of the 6th Gds Mecz Div participated in the river crossing practice.

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[ ]  
It is therefore believed that the practice observed was linked with practices of units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army which were held in the area of Rathenow-Schoenhausen during the period from 10 to 12 July 1952.  
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